

More fuel, more flame, more heat as well as more light, are demanded by the religious needs of the time. However comfortable any single denomination may consider itself when gathered around its own hearthstone, sectarian fires are not capable of raising to any high degree the general religious temperature. It must be confessed that devotional coldness is one of the characteristics of the time, and that we are making little or no headway in counteracting it.

When we seek the causes of this devotional indifference, we may find one of them in the rapid increase of material prosperity and that general diffusion of comforts, which relieves men to a great degree of any permanent sense of need. When we are conscious of dependence upon the underlying life, we are made aware also of relations which transcend the physical. Absorbed in business, immersed in luxury, intent on having rather than being, we forget some of the things which pertain to our higher needs. Some hard, rough places on the road of life may be needed to jolt us out of our complacency.

Another reason for religious indifference is found in the influence of cold, hard dogmas. Religion and dogma have been made synonymous. The inevitable reaction from dogma that has taken place has carried with it also a reaction against religious institutions, and has enfeebled religious expression. Old names, statements, and creeds refuse to satisfy, and men drop into negation and distrust.

Still another reason for devotional feebleness is the wide prevalence of the critical spirit. The mind of the age picks everything to pieces. It is not content to play with traditional toys; it wants to know how they are made. Once taken apart, they are not put together again. The critical test pervades the realm of literature, history, science and philosophy. It is fruitful in investigation. It classifies and accumulates knowledge, but it does not develop faith. It may not be inimical to it, but it is not its feeder. Faith requires other nutriment. Faith takes much for granted; criticism takes nothing. Faith rises into eternal altitudes; criticism does not transcend the level of the understanding. The critical attitude is not that of receptivity. Cold, clarified speculation is not a substitute for the healthy bloom of the sentiments.

No mere analysis of religion, no new structure of dogma, can take the place of religious belief. There are many who are turning unsatisfied from the mere intellectual side of religion, to seek again nature and inspiration in communing with the Eternal Spirit.

## FEMALE TENACITY OF LIFE.

It appears from the gathered statistics of the world that woman have a greater tenacity of life than men. Nature worships the female in all its varieties. Among insects the male perishes at a relatively earlier period. In plants the seminate blossoms die earliest and are produced on the water limbs. Female quadrupeds have more endurance than males. In the human race, despite the intellectual and physical strength of the man, the woman endures the longest, and will bear pain to which the strong man succumbs. Zymotic diseases are more fatal to males, and more male children die than female. Deverga asserts that the proportion dying suddenly is about 100 women to 780 men; 1,080 in the United States in 1870 committed suicide, to 285 women.

Intemperance, apoplexy, gout, hydrocephalus, affections of the heart and liver, scrofula, paralysis are far more fatal to males than females. Pulmonary consumption, on the other hand, is more deadly to the latter. Females in cities are more prone to consumption than in the country. All old countries not disturbed by emigration have a greater majority of females in the population. In royal families the statistics show more daughters than sons. The Hebrew woman is exceptionally long lived; the colored man is exceptionally short lived. The married state is favorable to prolongation of life among women. Dr. Hough proclaims that there are from two to six per cent more males born than females, yet there are more than six per cent of females in the living populations. From which statistics we conclude that all women ought to marry, and as men are likely to become so scarce they cannot be sufficiently prized by the other sex.

DURING the past year there were shipped to Portland, Or., from the country east of the Cascade mountains, 308,019 hundred weight of wheat, 153,117 barrels flour, 7,960 hundred weight of bran, 6,128 hundred weight of millstuffs, 906,210 pounds of hides, 7,237,925 pounds of wool, and 70,948 pounds of hops.

The following is a line from one of Swinburne's recent poems: "Spry, smirk, scoff, snap, snort, snivel, snarl and sneer." It is reported that Swinburne can write first-class poetry with one hand tied behind his back.

## OUR COMMERCE.

THE reason our foreign commerce languishes, is that it does not pay. Americans think they can make far better use of their capital than building or sailing ships. Our inter-state and home trade are far more profitable. There is more money made in building railroads and factories, and carrying on home exchanges than in any other way. The ships we need for our coast trade and for that with the islands and Central America we can build. There we do not come into competition with England and Scotland. It is one of the glories of our condition that we can live and flourish without engaging in foreign commerce, so far as furnishing ships is concerned. We have a vast continent, producing enough to make us comfortable and independent. We can go to war with any country in the world to-morrow, have our ports blockaded, and all imports cut off and still we can live. We can raise all we need to eat, and make all we want to wear. Our internal trade is prodigious, and more profitable than a foreign one, why hanker for what is unprofitable? We export wheat and cattle and salmon because we have more than we can consume. If others, content with using capital at one, two or three per cent a year, can furnish ships and do our carrying cheaper than we can do it for ourselves, let them have it. We have a home market for our money at high rates. We are the most prosperous people of the world, accumulating property faster, and making greater strides forward in every line of growth, getting more solid comfort and happiness than any of our fellows, why should we worry? If there is any suffering let it make itself known, and there are glad hands to relieve it. We are a busy people and we ought to be. We are not too busy for higher growth in all things, but we are too busy to listen to the groaning and the creaking of those who want a change because of present ills, who want a change merely that they may get in by turning their betters out. Our commercial, financial, and all other affairs are doing well, and we mean to keep them so, mourning for no profitless or non-paying business.

The bureau of printing and engraving is just completing its addition to the cabinet album for the present administration. It is probably not generally known that such an album exists. It is a custom for the bureau to prepare fine steel engravings of each president and his cabinet. These engravings are in the highest style of the art, and when bound in corresponding style make a handsome and unique volume. The book thus made contains the portraits of each president and his cabinet from Washington down, also views of the White house, capitol, etc. Only a sufficient number of copies are made to present the president and members of his cabinet with one each and retain one copy at the bureau of printing and engraving. The volume is a very interesting one, and of course quite rare, for although there have been twenty-one presidents and 212 cabinet officers since the beginning of presidents and cabinets in 1789, the number is very small in a nation of 50,000,000, and the habit of printing these books only dates back half that time.

Dr. J. W. WILD, F. R. G. S., sums up as follows the result of recent investigations into the causes of the sea, and of the apparent discoloration of the sea water in certain areas of the ocean: "The various tints of blue and green which constitute what may be called the proper color of sea water, are due to a greater or less portion of salt held in solution, the color being an intense blue when the water is very salt, and changing by degrees to a green-blue, and green color as the water becomes more fresh. On the other hand, the abnormally colored red, yellow, brown and inky seas owe their appearance to the accumulation of large masses of sea weeds, from the gigantic Algae, which fringe the shores of oceanic islands, to the microscopic Diatoms; but almost as frequently the discoloration is caused by myriads of animal organisms collected in shoals at the surface of the ocean."

In his defense of woman suffrage, Prof. Huxley takes the dilemma by the right horn, when he makes the question one of humanity. He says: "Suppose for the sake of argument we accept the inequality of the sexes as one of nature's immutable laws; call it a fact that women are inferior to men in mind, morals and physique. How or why should this settle or materially affect the subject of so-called Woman's Rights? Would not this very inferiority be a reason why every advantage should be given to the weaker sex, not only for its own good, but for the highest development of the races?"

Among probable candidates for congressional honors at the coming election may be mentioned J. F. Caples of Multnomah, and C. W. Fulton of Clatsop. On the Democratic side Messrs. Fenton and Bilyeu are spoken of. The question of Senator Slater's successor is a long way off. W. Lair Hill, of Wasco, is first choice in the minds of many.

POLITENESS is like an air cushion—there may be nothing in it, but it eases the jolts of the world wonderfully.

## A CINCH BILL.

THE bill now before congress to compel druggists to file in the patent office, the formula of all mixtures used for medicine, or put in food or drinks, before advertisement of them can be forwarded through the mails is a startling one. Probably neither the author nor anybody else expects to pass it. It is intended to bring druggists and patent medicine men into the lobby, and compel them to come down. In the first place, it will create some fat places for experts. Twenty dollars is to be paid down when the formula is presented at the office. All sales to be secured by advertising through the mails, must wait the tardy action of the experts. Then having the formula, anybody can mix and sell. It will be seen at a glance how patent medicines, flavoring extracts, and all such truck, will fly on the wings of the wind.

If the bill could only pass, every man could become his own manufacturer of patent nostrums. But the device is too thin. Even the Democratic house will hardly seriously consider the bill. The vendors of medicines will not be greatly alarmed, and very little coin will flow to the promoters, if the victims intended to be bled, are cautious and shrewd. But the attempt shows the animus of the author. The flimsy pretense of the public health is clearly seen, when the ten thousand ways of advertising are considered, and the utterly inadequate means employed to prevent the spread of villainous mixtures. The whole scheme will fall to the ground and nobody be cinched.

"SHALL women vote in Oregon or not?" is among the questions to be ballotted upon at the coming June election. It is a question of great importance. Negroes were given the right to vote sixteen years ago. The world has now moved far enough to allow the claims of our sisters, wives and mothers to be heard when they say "we realize that the ballot is not a privilege to use, but a trust to execute, and we wish to guard that trust with you. Numerically we are your equals, mentally we profess to be at least capable of sensible action in the matter." In simple justice the amendment should at least be given thorough discussion; if decided upon its merits it will ultimately win.

The New Haven Morning News recently had the following: Boy wanted: Good references required; steady employment. Apply to G. D. R. Hubbard Printers' Warehouse, 379 State street. A day or two after the same paper had this notice: Born—In this city, January 4th, a son to Mr. and Mrs. G. D. R. Hubbard. It is supposed that the references required were accepted as good.

A PHILADELPHIA man stopped using gas and bought lamps instead. The very first night a lamp was upset by the cat and the house burned down. Moral—Don't keep cats.

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Gray's Harbor.  
She will take freight at Portland, and on her return from Portland will leave Astoria. For further particulars apply to J. H. D. GRAY, Astoria, Oregon.

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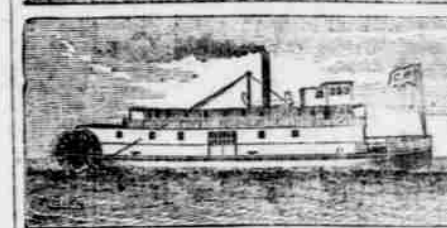
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